

BETTONVILLE et al
Appl. No. 10/561,796
April 4, 2009

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). Pressure pipe resin comprising from 90 to 99.9 wt%, based on the total weight of the resin, of a polyethylene, and from 0.1 to 10 wt%, based on the total weight of the blend, of an ionomer.

2 (previously presented). Pressure pipe resin according to claim 1, wherein the polyethylene is multimodal.

3 (previously presented). Pressure pipe resin according to claim 2, formed from a blend of (a) a polyethylene resin comprising from 35 to 60 wt% of a high molecular weight fraction having a density of up to 0.930 g/cm^3 and from 40 to 65 wt% of a low molecular weight fraction having a density of at least 0.965 g/cm^3 , and (b) from 0.1 to 10 wt%, based on the total weight of the blend, of an ionomer.

4 (currently amended). Resin Pressure pipe resin according to claim 1, wherein the quantity of ionomer in the blend is between 0.5 and 6 wt% based on the total weight of the blend.

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5 (currently amended). Resin Pressure pipe resin according to claim 4, wherein the quantity of ionomer in the blend is between 1 and 2 wt% based on the total weight of the blend.

6 (currently amended). Resin Pressure pipe resin according to claim 1, wherein the ionomer has a polyethylene backbone and has a density of at least 0.930 g/cm³.

7 (currently amended). Resin Pressure pipe resin according to claim 1, wherein the ionomer is a grafted metal salt of an ethylene and maleic anhydride copolymer.

8 (currently amended). Resin Pressure pipe resin according to claim 1, wherein the polyethylene resin comprises from 35 to 49 wt% of a first polyethylene fraction of high molecular weight, and from 51 to 65 wt% of a second polyethylene fraction of low molecular weight, the first polyethylene fraction comprising a linear low density polyethylene having a density of up to 0.928 g/cm³ and an HLMI of less than 0.6g/10min, and the second polyethylene fraction comprising a high density polyethylene having a density of at least 0.969g/cm³ and an MI₂ of greater than 100g/10min, and the polyethylene resin having a density of greater than 0.940g/cm³ and an HLMI of from 1 to 100 g/10min.

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9 (previously presented). Pressure pipe comprising a resin as defined in claim

1.

10 (previously presented). Pressure pipe according to claim 9, which has an extrapolated 20°C / 50 years stress at a 97.5% confidence level of at least 10 MPa (PE 100) according to ISO 9080.

11 (canceled).

12 (previously presented). Pressure pipe resin according to claim 2, wherein the polyethylene is bimodal.

13 (currently amended). Resin Pressure pipe resin according to claim 4, wherein the quantity of ionomer in the blend is between 1 and 5 wt%.